

Appl. No. 10/010,110

Amdt. Dated February 3, 2004

Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite that the fluid flow device defines an upstream end, an opposite downstream end, and an axis extending generally between the upstream and downstream ends. In addition, the axis and the side panel transport path are non-parallel to the pant transport plane. Claim 4 has been amended to further recite that the fluid flow device defines an upstream end, an opposite downstream end, and an axis extending generally between the upstream and downstream ends. In addition, the axis is non-parallel to the pant transport plane. Support for these amendments appears throughout the specification and in particular on page 41, line 35 – page 42, line 3; page 43, lines 8 – 11; and in Figs. 25 – 29. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 23 – 37 were previously withdrawn from consideration and have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1 – 22 form the subject matter of the response. Based on the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the application be passed to allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action mailed September 2, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,596,113 B2 issued July 22, 2003 to Csida et al. (hereinafter "Csida"). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiners rejections to claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are moot in view of the amendments made herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 – 22 were indicated to be allowable. Claims 3 and 6 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As set forth above, Applicants believe that presently presented independent claims 1 and 4 are allowable, and as such, claims 3 and 6 need not be rewritten in independent form. The Examiner is thanked for recognizing the allowability of these claims.

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Applicants note the Examiner's reasoning for finding that claims 3, 6 and 7 – 22 include allowable subject matter. For the record, Applicants believe that claims 3, 6 and 7 – 22 are allowable for at least the reasons provided by the Examiner.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the Information Disclosure Statements that were submitted on February 11, 2002, April 17, 2002, October 28, 2002 and June 30, 2003. The Examiner is requested to make of record receipt and review of the documents listed therein.

In conclusion, and in view of the above amendments and remarks, reexamination, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or if there are any remaining issues that can be handled by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (920) 721-3862.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I, Barbara D. Miller, hereby certify that on February 3, 2004, this document is being sent by facsimile transmission addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA to facsimile number (703) 872-9306.

By: _____


Barbara D. Miller